

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7602
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
CELLULAR TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS
P.D. ELANGO VAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the demand and supply of cellular telephone instruments in the country;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that large quantity of cellular telephone instruments batteries have been smuggled in the country during the last two years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) : As per information given by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) the new cellular connections provided during the last two financial years were respectively 317289 for the year 1998-99 and 684733 for the year 1999-2000. The demand of the Cellular Telephone Instruments can be taken as of about the same order.

The cellular telephone instruments are not manufactured in the country and are freely importable as per export-import policy.

(b) to (c) : Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to quantify the exact quantum of Cellular Telephone Instruments and Batteries smuggled into the country. Details of Cellular Telephone Instruments and Batteries attempted to be smuggled which have been seized by the various Custom field formations & Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last 2 financial years are as under:

No. of Cellular Phone & Batteries Seized Value (Rs. in lakhs)

1998-99	6962	657.86
1999-2000	24721	1408.05

(d) All the field formations of the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are ever vigilant and alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods including cellular Telephones.